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1. A method of integrating product information management with vehicle design, said method comprising the steps of

selecting a vehicle program requirement from a library stored in a memory of a computer system, wherein the library is accessed through an information portal on the computer system;

selecting an information database containing information related to the design of the vehicle from the library, wherein the information base is accessed through the information portal;

determining if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement; and

using the information from the information base in the design of the vehicle, if the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1, including the step of selecting through the information portal additional information for determining if the information from the information base correlates with the program requirement, if

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the information from the information database does not correlate with the program requirement.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2 including the step of determining if a portion of the information from the information database correlates with the program requirement based on the additional information.

10 4. A method as set forth in claim 3 including the step of using the portion of the information from the information database that correlates with the program requirement in the design of the vehicle, if a portion of the information from
15 the information database correlates with the program requirement.

5. A method as set forth in claim 4 including the step of selecting through the
20 information portal additional information regarding the design of the vehicle.

6. A method as set forth in claim 5 including the step of using the additional
25 information to determine whether to generate new information for use in the design of the vehicle and

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generating new information if determined that the new information should be generated.

7. A method of integrating product
5 information management with vehicle design, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a vehicle program requirement
from a library stored in a memory of a computer
system, wherein the library is accessed through a
10 web-based information portal on the computer system;

selecting an information database
containing information related to the design of the
vehicle from the library, wherein the information
database is accessed through the information portal;

15 determining if the information from the
information database correlates with the program
requirement;

using the information from the information
database in the design of the vehicle, if the
20 information from the information database correlates
with the program requirement;

selecting through the information portal
additional information for determining if the
information from the information database correlates
25 with the program requirement, if the information from

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9. A method as set forth in claim 8 including the step of using the additional information to determine whether to generate new information for use in the design of the vehicle and
20 generating new information if determined that the new information should be generated.

10. A method of integrating product information management with vehicle design to verify
25 existing information, using a computer system having

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selecting an information database of
verification information for the design of the
10 vehicle, wherein the information database is accessed
through the information portal;

15 using the information database in the
design of the vehicle if the verification information
correlates with the program requirement;

using the additional information to determine if a portion of the verification information correlates with the program requirement;

using the portion of the verification
25 information that correlates with the program
requirement if determined that a portion of the

verification information correlates with the program requirement; and

generating new information if a portion of the verification information does not correlate with
5 the program requirement.

11. A method as set forth in claim 10 including the step of determining through the information portal if a condition is known by which
10 the verification information was generated, if a portion of the verification information correlates with the program requirement.

12. A method as set forth in claim 11
15 including the step of generating new verification information if the condition by which the verification information was generated is not known and using the new verification information in the design of the vehicle.

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13. A method as set forth in claim 11 including the step of determining confidence in the portion of the verification information that correlates with the program requirement if the
25 condition by which the verification information is generated is known.

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14. A method as set forth in claim 13 including the step of performing a computer-aided engineering analysis of the verification information
5 if not confident in the verification information.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14 including the step of using the portion of the verification information and the results of the
10 computer-aided engineering analysis in the design of the vehicle if confident in the computer-aided engineering analysis.

16. A method as set forth in claim 13
15 including the step of using the portion of the verification information in the design of the vehicle if confident in the verification information.